

**Application No.: 10/541,186**  
**Filing Date: August 10, 2006**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

**Please enter the drawing “Replacement Sheets” submitted herewith into the application.**

## **REMARKS**

The Abstract of the disclosure is replaced by a new abstract, which removes legal phraseology as requested by the Examiner. The specification is amended to include reference numbers for components of the claimed device as discussed below and to amend the abstract. In addition, drawing “Replacement Sheets” are provided, which also include these component reference numbers, in order to address the objections to the drawings as discussed below.

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are presently pending. Of these, Claims 1-6 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner indicated that Claims 8-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections in connection with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph discussed below. Applicant has incorporated the limitation of Claim 7 into Claims 8 and 9, and Claim 7 is canceled. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 9, and dependent claims thereof, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Support for new Claims 19-21 is found in the Specification as filed, for example in original Claim 7. The claims are amended to correct minor informalities (e.g., to use proper antecedent basis and to correct other grammatical errors). No new matter has been added herewith. The following addresses the substance of the Office Action.

### **Replacement Drawings**

“Replacement Drawings” provided herewith include reference numbers for components that are disclosed in the description. In particular, the description refers at page 9, lines 21-22 to “a housing,” which is indicated in the replacement drawings with reference number 17. The steam generator is relabeled with reference number 2, and a new arrow connects reference number 2 to the overall steam generator. In addition, a water intake device (WID), a water intake switch (WIS) and an electric circuit (EC) are referred to at page 4, lines 2-4. These components are represented in the replacement drawings with references numbers 18, 19 and 20, respectively. No new matter has been added.

### **Indefiniteness**

Claims 7-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite as follows:

- a) The “water level controller,” “intermediate switch valve” and “heater,” as recited in Claims 9 and 14, were already recited in Claim 7. As indicated above,

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Applicant has amended Claims 8 and 9 to include the limitations of Claim 7, now canceled. Claims 9 and 14 are amended to remove recitation of “water level controller,” “intermediate switch valve” and “heater”.

- b) The limitation “water fill-in outlet” as recited in Claim 7, line 4 was found to be unclear. In amended Claims 8 and 9 and in new Claim 19, Applicant has used the term “water fill inlet”. The specification is also amended to use this clearer term.
- c) Recitation of “the volatile and soluble substances” in claim 7 did not have antecedent basis. Applicant has amended Claims 8 and 9 to recite in the preamble “A device for preparing a liquid that comprises volatile and soluble substances,” thereby providing antecedent basis for later recitation of “the volatile and soluble substances”.
- d) With regard to Claims 10 and 15, it was unclear what constitutes a “traditional Chinese medicine liquid”. Claims 10 and 15 are amended to generically recite a “medicinal liquid”.

In view of the amendments to the claims, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

### **Obviousness**

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bochud (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,522) or Manganiello et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,802) in view of Van Zijverden (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,941). The Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to combine the references and arrive at the presently claimed device. Without acquiescing and solely to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claims 8 and 9 to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 7. Since the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of these claims is allowable, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

### **No Disclaimers or Disavowals**

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this

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application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of Applicants' amendments to the Specification and the Claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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